

2. On a Wapiti and a Muntjac.

By R. LYDEKKER*.

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(Text-figures 143 & 144.)

THE WAPITI (*Cervus canadensis wardi*, subsp. n.).

A few weeks ago the Rev. W. N. Fergusson, a missionary in Sze-chuen, returned from China, bringing with him a small collection of Mammals from that province and Tibet, among them being a skin of *Eluopus* and a pair of antlers of the Sze-chuen Sambar (*Cervus unicolor dejeani*). The collection also included two shed antlers of an adult Wapiti (text-fig. 143), which may or may not be a real pair, although from the fact that neither is quite symmetrical in form and size with its fellow, while one is redder than the other, there seems considerable probability that the two are not naturally associated. These antlers, I was informed at the outset, came from Tibet, and, owing to the fact that Wapiti and other antlers (although generally, if not invariably, in the velvet) constitute an important article of export from the Altai and elsewhere to China, I was naturally suspicious—especially as Wapiti have been hitherto unknown to exist on the southern side of the Gobi—that Mr. Fergusson's specimens might have been imported into Tibet.

Enquiries were accordingly made from their owner as to the history of the specimens, to which Mr. Fergusson replied as follows:—

“As you are no doubt aware, the native haunts of the Parti-coloured Bear (*Eluopus*) are in the dwarf bamboo and rhododendron forests so abundant in Sze-chuen at an elevation of from 9000 to 11,000 feet above sea-level. The Deer you identify as Wapiti inhabit the region just above the tree-line; I have never shot one myself in these regions, yet I have it on good authority that they have been obtained. The specimen sent to you I obtained from a native hunter within fifty miles of the place where the Parti-coloured Bear was shot. The Deer, of course, never enter the bamboo-thickets in which the Bear makes its home, but graze on the grassy plains beyond.”

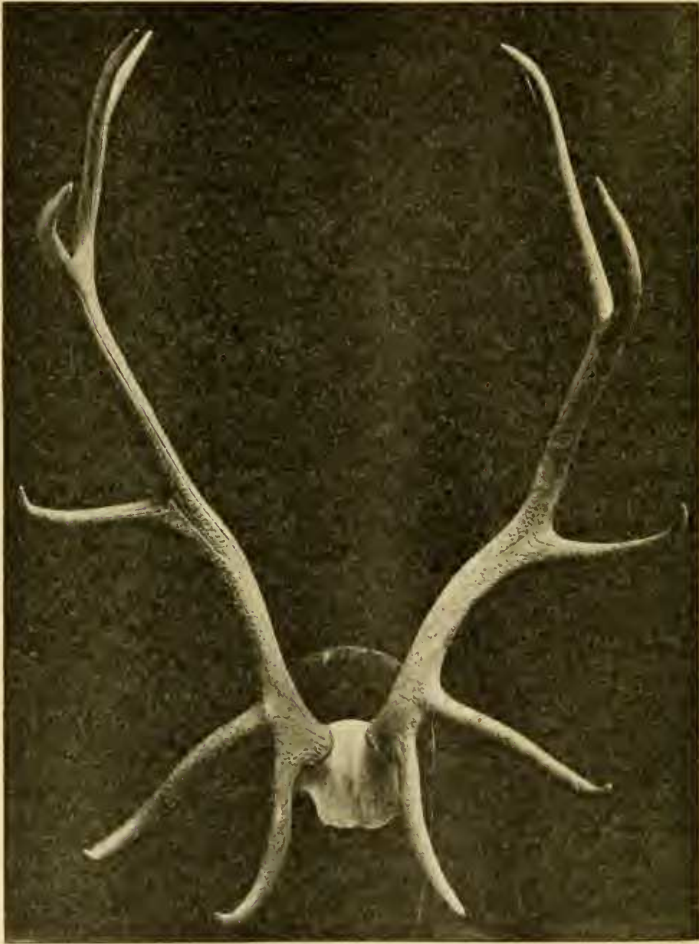
Although the Deer referred to by Mr. Fergusson may have been the so-called White Deer or Sze-chuen Hangul described by myself in the Society's 'Proceedings' for 1909 (p. 588) as *Cervus cashmirianus macneilli* †, the late Mr. J. W. Brooke referred to another and apparently larger Deer as inhabiting the Sze-chuen frontier, and there accordingly seems to be a probability that the story told by the native hunter to Mr. Fergusson

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† Since this paper was written, Major McNeill has informed me that the specimen was shot on the Tibetan side of the border.

may be true; the fact that the antlers are shed, and perhaps odd ones, by no means necessarily discrediting the narrative.

Text-fig. 143.



Antlers of Tibetan Wapiti, *Cervus canadensis wardi*.

That a representative of the Wapiti should be found on the mountains to the southward of the Gobi Desert is rendered probable—or, at all events, not improbable—by the case of the Argali Sheep (*Ovis ammon*), whose distribution (if *poli* and the other allied forms be regarded as local races) surrounds the Gobi.

Here it is my pleasant duty to record an act of special liberality on the part of Mr. Rowland Ward, F.Z.S., who, when their interest was brought to his notice, purchased the two antlers and presented them to the British Museum.

As is apparent from the text-figure, the antlers are unmistakably those of a Wapiti, and are somewhat inferior in point of size to the pair surmounting a specimen of the Tian Shan race exhibited in the Natural History Museum. Satisfactorily to distinguish some of the races of Wapiti by their antlers alone, I find an exceedingly difficult, if not actually impossible, task. Nevertheless, when the antlers forming the subject of this paper are placed alongside Wapiti antlers from the Altai and Tian Shan, it will be found that they differ in certain small details from all; although such slight differences are almost impossible to describe. One recognisable feature seems, however, to be the narrowness of the terminal fork, as compared with that of a Tian Shan Wapiti.

If I am right in regarding these antlers as indicating the existence of a Tibetan Wapiti, it is a practical certainty that this animal will represent a race by itself; and although I am not at present in a position to define it, I venture to propose the name of *Cervus canadensis wardi* for this presumed new race, in honour of the donor of the type specimen.

THE MUNTJAC (*Cervulus bridgemanii**, Lydekker, Abstract
P. Z. S. 1910, p. 38).

Passing on to the subject of the second part of this paper, I have first of all to express my thanks to Lieut. the Hon. R. O. B. Bridgeman, R.N., F.Z.S., for submitting to me a series of skins and skulls of Muntjacs from the An-wei district of Western China, obtained by himself during a shooting trip. Mr. Bridgeman is of opinion that there are three distinct kinds of Muntjac in An-wei, which he calls the red, the black, and the yellow or tawny; the last being the smallest.

Of these, the so-called red species is identified, and rightly, by Mr. Bridgeman with *Cervulus sclateri*, which appears to be distinguished from *C. lachrymans* of Sze-chuen by the more marked contrast between the yellow of the head and the rufous or olive of the neck. Both are characterised by the absence of a dark nuchal stripe; while in *sclateri*, at any rate, the young are spotted, instead of uniformly coloured as in *reevesi*. The backs of the ears are, I believe, yellow in both sexes. In An-wei *sclateri* is the common species.

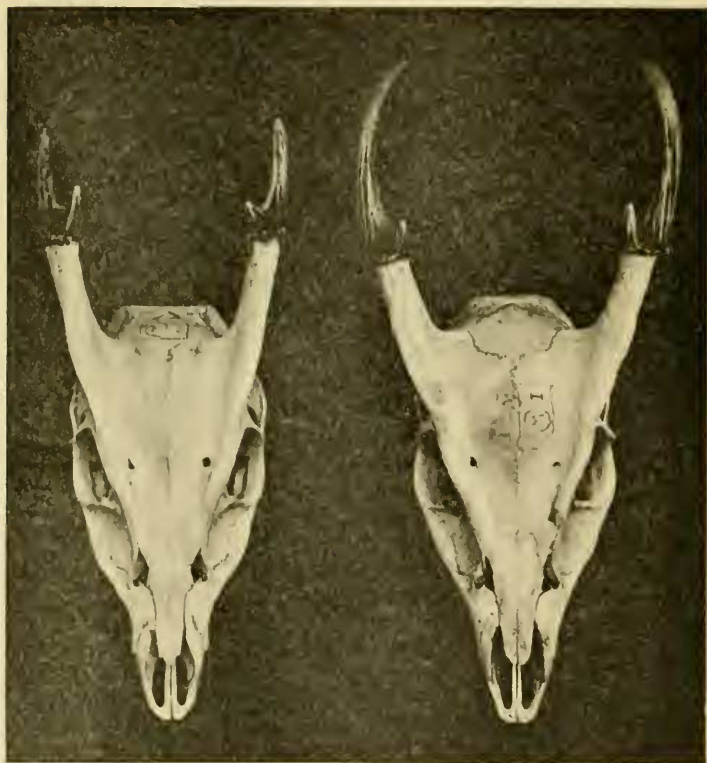
With regard to Mr. Bridgeman's "yellow species," in which the whole tone of the coat is yellowish olive, with yellow speckles on the hair, I take this to be near akin to *C. reevesi*, which is, however, described as being typically reddish chestnut speckled

* The complete account of this new species appears here; but the name and a preliminary description were published in the 'Abstract,' No. 86, 1910.

with yellowish grey. A mounted specimen in the Museum is darker, with rufous speckles, which almost disappear on the hind-quarters. All show a dark nape-stripe.

Mr. Bridgeman's yellow Muntjac agrees with *reevesi* in the relatively small degree of divergence of the antler-pedicles (text-fig. 144, A), the great size of the lachrymal fossa, and the presence of a distinct outer lateral prominence on the nasals where they first come into contact with the maxilla.

Text-fig. 144.



A

B

Skulls of Chinese Muntjacs.

A. *Cerulus reevesi* (?). B. *Cerulus bridgemani*.

In the male skin the back of the ears is covered with yellow hairs, whereas in the female the hairs on this part are blackish. No such difference appears to have been described between the ears of the two sexes of *reevesi*; but this may possibly have been

overlooked. For the present, at any rate, I must leave this yellow Muntjac without a definite name, suggesting, however, that it is a local race of *reevesi*.

Of the black, or, as it might preferably be called, the brown Muntjac, Mr. Bridgeman has sent home the skins and skulls of several specimens of both sexes. The general type of colouring of the fur of the upper parts is the same as in the yellow Muntjac, but the tint is much darker. In the male the fur is blackish brown, with the hairs on the middle line of the back and the whole of the rump faintly ringed with yellow. In the female the yellow rings on the hairs are more numerous and brighter in colour, while the annulated area extends down to the flanks, so that the whole body is gold-speckled. In both sexes there is a dark nuchal stripe; and in the female, like that of *reevesi*, the black frontal lines unite into a broad patch between the ears, which is continued as the nuchal stripe. In the female the ears are black externally, whereas in the males they are yellow, although with the basal half black in one example.

The skull (text-fig. 144, B), while agreeing with that of the yellow Muntjac in the great size of the lachrymal fossa, differs in many instances, at any rate, by the greater divergence of the antler-pedicles, and the invariable absence of any distinct lateral projection on the nasals where they first come into contact with the maxillæ.

This Muntjac appears to be a new form, which I propose to regard as a species, with the name of *C. bridgemanii*, although it may be only a larger race of *reevesi*. The mounted female presented to the Museum by Mr. Bridgeman is the type. The height of this specimen is 19 inches, and when freshly killed its weight was 29 lbs.

These brown Muntjacs live normally at a high elevation in the Wei-Yas Shan Mountains of An-wei; and descend to the low grounds only during spells of exceptional cold in mid-winter. Information of their existence was given to Mr. Bridgeman by Mr. Charles Maguire, a mining agent in An-wei; and the donor suggested that the species should be named after that gentleman, although this appeared to me, on the whole, inadvisable*.

These Muntjacs belong to the typical group of the genus, in which the upper surface of the tail is chestnut; but in their generally dark colour, and especially in the black ears of the female, they form in some degree a transition to the plum-coloured group, in which the upper surface of the tail is dark; the next connecting species being *C. fea* of Tenasserim, which lacks the head-crest of the Chinese *crinifrons* and the allied genus *Elaphodus*.

It may be added that I have given preliminary notices—without specific names—of both the Wapiti and the Muntjac in the 'Field' newspaper for April 1910.

* A male skin shot by Mr. Maguire was received at the British Museum after this paper was read.